

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to more clearly define the claimed invention. The Applicants submit that no new matter is involved. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 16, 2011.

Claims 1 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Chan et al. (U.S. Published Application No. 2003/0084528). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

At page 3, line 10 of the Office action, the Examiner recites:

It will be added that with regards to the amended language of "a single head" and "a single tufted portion" in claim 1, lines 2-3, it is still true that the second bristle holder 38 of Chan still defines "a" single head and "a" single tufted portion. The claim **never** recites that the electric toothbrush comprises **only** a single head and **only** a single tufted portion formed in the head and thus has not been construed as such. Any asserted "combination" of Chan is still not precluded by the explicit language used for amended claim 1. In other words, the fact that Chan may disclose more is not precluded by the exact language of claim1.

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In view of the Examiner's comments, Claim 1 is amended to include that the electric toothbrush is a replaceable brush having only a single head and only a single tufted portion formed in the single head.

In view of the amendment to Claim1 and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Gleason et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,496,999). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection are respectfully requested in view of the present amendment to Claim 1 and the following remarks.

Claim 7 depends from Claim 1, which is discussed above. In view of the amendment to Claim1 and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.


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If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned Agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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